



December 1, 2004

Reply to Attn of: **General Law Practice Group**

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the
2004 Federal Communications Bar Association Chairman's Dinner,
December 2, 2004

On December 2, 2004, the Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA) will hold its 2004 Annual Chairman's Dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. I have determined it to be in the best interests of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to the dinner to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The dinner will be widely attended by Federal and private sector communications attorneys, and other professionals, including engineers, consultants, economists and Government officials in the metropolitan Washington, DC area, from across the U.S. and other countries. The estimated cost of the dinner, which includes all food and beverages, is approximately \$100 per person. Approximately 3,000 have been invited to the dinner. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.202(g). The dinner allows NASA employees and other invitees to discuss issues of common interest in information technology law and policy. I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the dinner without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

R. Andrew Falcon